

Remarks/Arguments

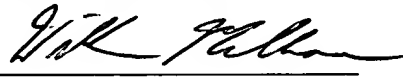
In the present Amendment, new claims 143, 144 and 145 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the addition of the new claims.

In applicants' Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 12, 2004, concerning the above-identified patent application, applicants advised the Examiner that they had discovered that the Examiner (Examiner Corbin) made a mistake in the Office Action dated October 29, 2003, in that claims 94 to 96 had been included among the claims that were withdrawn from consideration due to the restriction requirement. This is clearly incorrect since claims 94 to 96 were part of Group II of the restriction requirement and were expressly elected by applicants in the Response to Restriction Requirement dated August 14, 2003. Applicants also advised the Examiner that they planned to file another Amendment in the near future that will contain claims that are directed to the subject matter of now canceled claims 94 to 96. The present Amendment adds those claims. It is respectfully submitted that all of the currently pending claims 129 to 145 are consonant with Group II of the restriction requirement, and that claims 129 to 142 read on the elected species (chewing gum).

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 04289-00120-USCON from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

William E. McShane (Attorney for Applicant)

Registration No.: 32,707

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1007 North Orange Street

P.O. Box 2207

Wilmington, Delaware 19899

(302) 658-9141 (TEL) (302) 658-5614 (Fax)